

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY

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MUSEUM GARDEN, BRISBANE

Most people in Brisbane have childhood memories associated with a visit to the Queensland Museum, followed by a picnic in the grounds. The site was granted to the Acclimatisation Society of Queensland in 1863 and it was here at Bowen Park that the Society introduced crops, established an ornamental garden and exhibited exotic animals such as Llamas. As a place of public instruction and recreation, the Society's gardens were said to eclipse the Botanic Gardens. It contained the best collection of tropical trees outside the tropics. As Brisbane expanded, the Society's large land holding on the perimeter of the city came under pressure from other prospective users. By the late 1870s twenty-three acres were leased to the newly established Queensland National Agricultural and Industrial Association, for use as an exhibition ground. The original timber exhibition building was destroyed by fire. It was

replaced in 1891 with the polychromatic brick building, that was subsequently converted to a museum. The surviving garden dates from the construction of the second exhibition building. It was a formal layout of curved carriage drive, pathways, shrubbery, grass-edged flower beds and a fountain laid out as a centrepiece. Bush houses extended out from the northern side of the building framing the avenue approach from the exhibition grounds. Over the years the activities of the Museum spilled out of the building into the grounds, with Mephisto a World War One tank, a beam engine and replica dinosaurs becoming part of the garden. Although the Museum was removed from the building in 1987, the garden continues to be maintained by the Department of Primary Industries, in whose charge it has been for over ninety years.

Fiona Gardiner



John Oxley Library

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Australian Garden History* completes publication of the papers from the 1990 Australian Garden History Society conference. John Foster ranges over a broad period and examines the use of native plants in our local gardens. The prevailing attitudes, he discovers, are linked to a variety of more general themes in Australian history. Surely, after reading his erudite paper (to say nothing of the contributions in the last issue of this journal), no person need repeat the myth that indigenous vegetation was despised by colonial society and that the use of native plants in our gardens is a recent phenomenon. If local use of native vegetation has a long history, in recent times there has been a reassessment of the uses to which it can be put. Rodger Elliot sketches the variety of our indigenous vegetation suitable for garden uses, John Patrick offers a personal view on design uses for Australian native plants and Susan Campbell looks back at the success of landscaping around Albury-Wodonga, landscaping which depends for its effect primarily on the use of indigenous species. Juliet Ramsay's paper, based on her address to the Annual General Meeting held during the 1990 conference, provides a conclusion to the proceedings.

Just as this issue (and its companion in November/December 1990) brings together major new contributions to the theme of the horticultural uses of Australian native plants, our book reviews reflect significant new additions to the biographical literature of Australian garden history. Paul Sorenson, Ellis Stones and Alister Clark now join figures such as Edna Walling, William Guilfoyle and William Sangster as subjects of major biographical studies. That three new biographical works come onto the market simultaneously is probably a happy accident — in each case they are the result of years of research — but they point to the emergence of garden history as a subject worthy of critical attention. As Oline Richards comments in her review of the Sorenson study, the current paucity of such biographies makes it difficult to assess the assertions and analyses in new books. With each new publication however, a broader picture may be sketched and comparisons made with more authority.

Richard Aitken and Georgina Whitehead

LETTER

August 1990

Readers of the very interesting article in your October/November 1989 issue on Prince Alfred Park may be interested to know that a copy of a tender, preserved in the Mitchell Library amongst the Baptist Papers, provides valuable information on the planting design for the park and the method adopted to carry out this part of its development. The tender, submitted by John Baptist and Son of 'The Gardens', Surrey Hills and dated 18 July 1870, is addressed to the Town Clerk of the Sydney City Council. It provides for the supply and planting of one thousand and twenty-five trees for the sum of one

hundred and twenty pounds sterling. Attached is a note saying that the tender was not accepted and that Guilfoyle and Sons had been awarded the contract, their price being one hundred and ten pounds. Thus it was quite possible for W.R. Guilfoyle to have been involved with the landscaping of this park before his move to Melbourne in 1873.

Baptists were unable to supply all the plants specified and submitted a list of proposed substitutions. They claimed that 'those we propose substituting are so well known and much esteemed for their valuable properties of ornament, shade and shelter, that they cannot well be spared from such a plantation'. The tender is handwritten and not easy to read. However, the list of plants Baptists were unable to supply, just over one sixth of the total, seems to be:

- 20 *Pittosporum obtusifolium* (*P. taitense* — Tahiti)
- 15 *Cupressus nutkaensis* (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* — North America)
- 25 *Cupania australis* (not identified)
- 30 *Cryptocarya glaucescens* (NSW and Queensland)
- 30 *Elaeocarpus serratus* (India and Malaysia)
- 15 *Cupressus whiteleyana* (*C. sempervirens* var. *indica* — India)
- 12 *Citbarexylum quadrangulare* (*C. pulverulentum* — West Indies)
- 25 *Eugenia odorata* (*E. brachiata* — East Indies)

For these they proposed substituting the following:

- 20 *Lophostemon australis* (*L. confertus* — NSW and Queensland)
- 15 Palms — *Corypha australis* and *Seafortbia elegans* — (*Livistona australis* and *Ptychosperma elegans* — both Australia)
- 30 *Castanospermum australis* (*C. australe* — NSW and Queensland)
- 25 *Cupania xylocarpa* (*Elattostachys xylocarpa* — Australia)
- 30 *Corynocarpus laevigatus* (*C. laevigata* — New Zealand)
- 15 *Cupressus ubdeana*, *goventiana*, *chinensis* and *corneyana* (*C. lusitanica* — Mexico, *C. goveniana* — California, *C. chinensis* — not identified, *C. torulosa* — Western Himalayas and Szechwan)
- 37 *Grevillea robusta* (NSW and Queensland)

It was possible to check these substitutions with Baptists' catalogue for 1871 and so there can be little doubt that this list has been correctly transcribed. In both lists many names were unfamiliar. However with the help of friends and officers at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, current names for most have been established and these together with their place of origin have been added in brackets. In view of the commemorative role of the park it is interesting to note that there are no European trees, let alone any British ones, in either list and the preponderance of rainforest trees is striking. It is also worth drawing attention to the large number of Australian natives in Baptists' lists. Those who know the sparse unadventurous planting that exists in this park today must regret that the original planting was not successfully maintained while those supporters of native plants must be sorry that Baptists' tender was not accepted and their imaginative proposals implemented.

Richard Clough
Double Bay, New South Wales

NATIVES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY GARDEN

One of the most tenacious popular myths about nineteenth century gardening is that new settlers largely ignored, or even despised, native Australian plants. Instead, they created gardens and used plants which nostalgically recalled those of their homeland. Although there is some truth in this view, it seriously oversimplifies the response of Victorian gardeners to their environment. In fact there is a great deal of evidence to suggest that the native flora was of considerable interest, not only to botanists, but also to horticulturalists and gardeners; and this interest was sustained in a continuous, if minor, way right through the century.

From the catalogues of nurserymen and seedsmen, it is relatively easy to establish the availability of natives for gardening purposes. What is less obvious is their significance for those who planted and grew them.

The attractiveness of native plants to the earliest Melbourne gardeners lay in their ready availability and cheapness. Without an established nursery trade to supply their needs, and with imported plants from Tasmania and Sydney being comparatively expensive, gardeners resorted to what was readily at hand.

The first gardening calendar to be published in Victoria, in 1841, included the following instructions for activity in the flower garden in July: 'Make plantations of the indigenous plants and shrubs of the handsomest dwarf growing flowering kinds'. It went on to list some forty local species, including *Boronia variabilis*, which was particularly recommended 'the natives name their wives or lubras after this plant from its exceeding beauty, in the same manner as we do in England after the rose and other favourite plants'.

There was, then, a willingness to use local material, but its use was highly self-conscious, and there was certainly no intention of making a native garden for its own sake. Natives were to be 'mixed with plants and shrubs of English production, and other exotics'. And if there is any doubt that these mixed gardens were merely improvisations, it is laid to rest by the instructions for December: 'Continue planting native shrubs: one necessary thing to be observed is to take them up with all their roots and fibres intact'. In other words, these plants were simply removed from the bush, which provided an apparently inexhaustible supply of plant material for the discerning gardener. Indeed the third edition of this work, which appeared in 1851 under the name of Daniel Bunce, included a list of more than two hundred indigenous plants suitable for garden culture.

The same spirit of improvisation was characteristic of James Sinclair, the Scottish gardener who described the gardens of Melbourne in 1856. For the most part these were, inevitably, gardens of aspiration rather than achieved effect and Sinclair, looking for signs of structure and permanence, sensibly emphasized the value of the remnant original vegetation. Old gum trees represented a particularly rich horticultural treasure. Describing a cottage garden in Lennox Street, Richmond, he enthused about 'as fine a decapitated gum tree as we have ever seen; it has been cut nearly to the ground, and the shoots, formed in a few years, make it an object of great

worth for shelter and shade. To the possessors of old gum trees, we would recommend the same treatment'. To coppice a gum tree was to give it shape and verdure or, in short, to reclaim it from a wild state of nature for the garden.

In a still more extreme formulation of this principle, Sinclair sometimes maintained that 'Nature herself' created a garden, which needed only to be recognized and tended. Commenting on a garden in the Gardiner's Creek Road, he wrote:

To describe the plants here would be too much: all we can say is that what is precious in the green houses and conservatories at home is found here: the young banksias, dryandras and correas, after being cut down with the scythe and the cattle, are springing up with all the vigour of the heather on the highland hills of Scotland.

This is less a precisely observed description — it is unlikely that the largely West Australian genus of *Dryandra* would have been growing near the Yarra bank — than a statement of gardening principle. At its most basic it amounted simply to this advice, which Sinclair offered to new settlers:

Get hold of a piece of ground in Victoria, cut down the trees if you do not like them or if they are very old, fence it with a close fence, and leave the rest to Nature, when you will have a delightful garden.

As the colony became more ambitious, the use of indigenous plants to form a ready-made or improvised garden was gradually superseded by their more selective use as substitutes for more desirable exotics. Where familiar exotics could not be procured, or where their growth might be unacceptably slow, or where they were thought unlikely to flourish in the Melbourne climate, natives might fill their place in the composition of the landscape.

Some substitutes were so obvious as to suggest themselves. An article describing the araucarias which William Sangster was cultivating at Como in 1861 referred particularly to the Bunya Bunya pine (*A. bidwillii*). This, the author wrote,

is a fine ornamental tree and is a good substitute for the beautiful Chili pine (*A. imbricata*), which is of very slow growth, and difficult to rear in this climate. Bidwill's araucaria grows freely in almost any kind of soil, and forms a magnificent object when studded with its large cones.

In a similar way the pittosporum was widely employed as an equivalent to the English use of the Portuguese laurel; and there was a suggestion from one gardener that a native myrtle might solve the difficulties that were encountered with English box hedges.

The degree to which natives should be substituted for exotics depended partly on a gardener's aesthetic preference, but more importantly on his estimate of the adaptability of exotics to the local climate. In a lecture to the Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Society in 1860, the gardener William Smith argued that substitution might be necessary on a large scale. In the first place, he was convinced that few deciduous trees, with the exception of the elm, would prove hardy in Melbourne. But, secondly, he considered that the native vegetation itself

would also soon need to be replaced:

I believe it is found to be a fact that in all new countries, or rather in the history of colonisation, that the native woods, like the wild animals and the wild men, must give way before the advance of civilised man and the new order of things that accompany his progress. We have examples of this around Melbourne in many of the enclosures and public reserves, where the original trees are gradually dying away.

The solution to this double dilemma might be to concentrate on improving the local vegetation, to subject it to the discipline of the nursery, and to select strains which would meet the needs of European gardening taste. *Eucalyptus viminalis*, for example, might be developed into a fine avenue tree, but gums might be used for plantations, and so on. But this was clearly a minority view; most gardeners remained more optimistic about the chances of cultivating exotics. 'I presume', he concluded, 'that this idea will not meet with general acceptance; but I am certain that however much we may desire it, that we shall never have the lime and chestnut avenues of Britain in this climate and country'.

Although the practice of substitution was less extensively adopted than Smith anticipated, it continued to influence the way gardeners viewed their work. And it continued as a visual habit even when the horticultural need was no longer so compelling. As late as the 1880s William Sangster was still writing about the desirability of retaining old gum trees on a garden site. For him, they still took the visual place of the ancient oak in the English landscape, supplying that sense of age from which new settlers sought reassurance in their new environment.

By the 1870s native plants had become a familiar element in the repertoire of colonial gardening. They were used eclectically, and the fact that they were indigenous was of no importance compared with the ornamental qualities which qualified them for admission. This was clearly evident, for example, in the context of

the fern craze which gathered momentum in Victoria in the mid-1870s. Wherever great ferneries were established, as at Ripponlea or Rupertswood, the collections included local material, because it was both readily available and attractive, but always in juxtaposition with exotic ferns, and particularly those from New Zealand. In this case, the emphasis of gardeners was on the richness, the lushness of the collection, and the provenance of particular ferns was strictly subordinate to the horticultural effect.

In much the same way native shrubs were incorporated into the extensive shrubberies of the mansion and villa gardens of the 1880s. They were included for their decorative value, or because they extended the flowering season, or achieved an unusual foliage effect, or for some other reason to do with the composition or showiness of the shrubbery. In this respect the garden of Mr Fiskin, at the corner of Kooyong Road and Malvern Road, may stand for many others. In 1881 his shrubbery was promiscuously mixed, and included coprosma, cistus, *Baeckia plicata*, *Thryptomene*, dwarf grevilleas, chorizemas, boronias, deutzias, abelias, philadelphus, proteas, hakeas, escallonias and pittosporums. The pleasure of such a garden depended heavily on the sheer range and diversity of the plant material.

Not surprisingly, a similar picture emerges from contemporary descriptions of the nurseries from which these mansion gardens were supplied. A journalist visiting Brunning's Nursery in October 1885 noted:

Weigela candida, just opening its blossoms, is one of the best of the genus. *Boronia megastigma*, *B. spatulata*, *B. crenulata* and *B. drummondii* are in flower. Another Australian native, *Eriostemon nerifolium*, is a fine shrub much in favour with Mr. Brunning. *Eutaxia myrtifolia* and *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, also natives, are desirable, likewise *Grevillea dallachiana* and *Chorizema cordata*. Some new double-flowered lilacs opening their flowers are really pretty...

Blue Gums used in the 1870s as street trees in Sturt Street, Ballarat



This apparently random juxtaposition of natives and exotics is reproduced even in the cut flower trade. The leading grower of cut flowers for the Melbourne market was Cheeseman's Nursery Garden at Brighton. He too included, along with the predictable bouvardias and fuchsias, *Baeckia*, *Thryptomene*, boronia, *Grevillea dal-lachiana* and, to complete the list, deutzias and daphne!

It is clear, then, that many native plants were valued in the garden, but it is equally clear that they were as detached from their origins as the camellia or the rose. This holds true for two introductions which became popular in the 1880s — the Cootamundra wattle and *Eucalyptus ficifolia*. In the case of the flowering gum, according to Adamson's *Australian Gardener* in 1879: 'its rich crimson flowers render it the handsomest of the gum trees, and from its dwarf habit it is nearly the *only* species admissible into gardens'. Within the space of two decades gardeners had drastically re-evaluated the suitability of the eucalypts, and found them wanting.

Two developments toward the end of the century provided a context within which the eucalypts, and native plants generally, would be viewed more sympathetically. In the 1890s there were powerful signs in Australian culture of a renewed focus on the bush. In different ways the 'Bulletin School' of writers, the Heidelberg painters and, in a more restricted sphere, such organizations as the Field Naturalists began to concentrate the minds of city dwellers on their natural environment. This was soon reflected in the schools, where nature study and even gardening found their way into the curriculum under the guidance of Frank Tate.

The State Schools' Nursery, which was founded to service the new educational interest in gardening, made available a considerable range of gums and wattles for planting in school playgrounds. But at a local level, alert and enterprising school teachers were also experimenting with native plants. At Emerald, for instance, in 1906 the school garden included the usual cottage garden flowers, but it also boasted a collection of native orchids, and 'a separate bed set apart for the cultivation of native flowers'. At Maryborough one teacher reported:

The native sarsparilla is a good climber. It is worthy of cultivation in any garden. I dig them out of the scrub in the Autumn...We are starting a garden in which we propose planting only native flowers. I am convinced that there are many wildflowers worthy of a place in any garden.

For some city-bred teachers, the strangeness and harshness of their appointed environment in the bush stimulated a growing sense of adventure, and even a dawning ecological awareness. At Boort, for example, a new teacher was by no means discouraged, and issued this advice to his colleagues:

If you have any mallee scrub on your playground, don't destroy it all. If it is old and ugly, cut it down, a small plot at a time, but preserve the shoots. They will be ornamental for many years, and give good shelter from wind and sun. Do not trouble about non-indigenous trees and shrubs; they are mostly unsuited to our climate. In the flora of the mallee there is much to admire. Teach its beauties. It may make the life of the mallee child happier. It will also make him a better Australian.

The mallee school teacher could not have expressed more succinctly the connexion between the growing interest in indigenous plants, the quickening sense of ecology, and the burgeoning spirit of Australian nationalism. It was in this ideologically charged climate of opinion, which became a frenzy of nationalist sentiment during the Great War, that native plants began to be valued — perhaps for the first time — not for their intrinsic botanical interest, nor for their utility, nor their beauty, but simply because they were Australian.

The chief focus of attention in this surge of horticultural jingoism was the wattle. This was promoted by the Australian Wattle Day League, which described its objectives as 'the protection and planting of the wattle, the advancement of an Australian national sentiment through the medium of the blossom, the celebration of Wattle Day, and the cultivation of an Imperial British sentiment'. With this kind of boosting the wattle grew in favour. By the end of the War, E. E. Pescott, the director of Burnley, was declaring that its popularity had increased a thousand-fold. In 1911 a census of wattles in cultivation had numbered only 13; by 1917 a total of 33 was counted, and seedsmen's lists now included wattles by the score.

Although the wattle had achieved a unique place in the native florilegium as the national emblem, other Australian plants flourished, as it were, in its shadow. The wildflower shows organized by the Field Naturalists' Club in the Melbourne Town Hall grew in popularity, and the 1916 display drew crowds far larger than for any of the shows of the horticultural societies. A new book by E. E. Pescott on the *Native flowers of Victoria* in 1915 added to the awakening interest; and the collections of native plants in the Botanic Gardens, and in the private Toorak garden of Mr. Rutter Clarke, received frequent notice in the gardening press. 'The taste for knowing and growing wildflowers' wrote the *Australasian*, 'is decidedly on the increase'.

Our final example underlines the connexion that was gradually forming in the gardening mind between the War, the nation and the native flora. In the first spring-time of peace a new garden in suburban Balwyn was opened for public inspection. 'Quite wisely, and with great good taste', reported the *Home Gardener*, 'the people of Balwyn have erected a monument in memory of the local heroes who went to fight for freedom in the Great War. It stands on a commanding ridge, not 100 yards away from the enclosure where Mr. Watson has planted a garden of wild Australian flora'. Thus, in pleasing juxtaposition, one could reflect on the Anzac tradition and contemplate the garden of Maranoa, which was opened to the public for the first time in October 1919. Five hundred people flocked to the opening and enjoyed seeing, according to the newspaper report, 'what possibly they had never seen before: Australian native flora concentrated in one garden'.

The native garden had come full circle. Once it had been enjoyed as the free gift of nature; now, it was a national achievement, a garden of blood and sacrifice.

John Foster

THE VARIETY AND CARE OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

Australian plants are often regarded as unique. This is perhaps an over-simplification as even though about 75% of Australian plants occur naturally nowhere else in the world there are strong Gondwanaland relationships. Plants from tropical Australia are often found in New Guinea and Asia, or are members of genera or families which also occur in these regions. Many south-eastern Australian plants show relationships with plants from South Africa, western South America, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

A large number of Australian plants have evolved in isolation and barriers such as the central Australian deserts have been an influencing factor in the development of many species with outstanding ornamental characteristics. It is from this group that the majority are endemic. Within Australia there are over 25,000 flowering plants which is an extremely rich representation for such an arid continent. There is a remarkable diversity of species and growth habits from which gardeners can draw for cultivation. There is an Australian plant for every purpose and it means we have to come to a better understanding of our wonderful flora in order to utilise it to its potential. We have the tallest flowering plant in the world in mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), any number of minute ephemerals, as well as a mindboggling range in between.

Trees dominate on the eastern seaboard and to some distance inland, with other populations in northern and south-western regions. They are also scattered throughout other areas, with the exception of the driest of our inland regions. Eucalypts are common and well known. There is a small range of conifers, some of which are placed in monotypic genera. However, it is shrubs which provide the greatest cover throughout Australia with a tantalising range of forms and dimensions. Botanists and horticulturists from overseas often describe

Australia as the 'Great Shrubland of the South'.

Many wonderful climbers are present, with the greatest diversity in the tropical rainforests of north-eastern Queensland, but they are found in all areas including some of our arid regions. *Cordyline stricta*, a woody monocotyledon, was popular earlier this century and is still highly valued. Most of the woody monocotyledons occur in the north of Australia, but many adapt well to southern regions. Within Australia palms are extremely uncommon in extensive stands. Bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) and Lord Howe Island's Kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*) are extremely popular as outdoor and indoor palms respectively.

Australia's herbaceous perennials are limited in number, but are becoming increasingly popular for cultivation. Some of the dwarf *Helicbrysum* and *Helipterum* species delight in being treated as herbaceous perennials. Other genera with suitable species include *Anigozanthos* (kangaroo paws), *Craspedia*, *Dampiera*, *Goodenia* and *Scaevola*. Annuals and ephemerals are usually more prolific in the semi-arid and arid regions where they put on their irregular display of pomposity after soaking rains; the daisy family *Asteraceae* is prominent. Annual helichrysums and helipterums are used to a limited degree in gardens, but they deserve greater recognition.

Bulbs and relatives such as in the families of *Liliaceae* and *Iridaceae* are poorly represented when compared with many other areas such as Asia and western America, but there are some wonderful examples within the genera of *Calostemma*, *Crinum*, *Orthrosanthos*, *Pater-sonia* and *Thysanotus*. Orchids are well represented by both terrestrial and epiphytic species, some of which are minute and intriguing such as *Acanthus caudatus*, while others such as *Dendrobium speciosum* is majestic and stunning when in full bloom.

Eucalyptus grandis





Rodger Elliot

Helicbrysum subulifolium



Rodger Elliot

Crinum pedunculatum



Rodger Elliot

Dendrobium speciosum

Grasses, rushes and sedges are now regarded more highly as ornamental plants and therefore gaining popularity for cultivation. There are plenty of Australians from which to choose, for example kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*), spear grasses (*Stipa* sp.), tassel cordrush (*Restio tetraphyllus*) and semaphore sedge (*Mesomolaena tetragona*). Cycads have a worldwide total of about 140 species and we are fortunate to have just under one-third of that total, with northern Australia being the home to most species. Some like *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* and *Macrozamia communis* adapt well to cooler climes.

Rainforest to desert and other habitats inclusive are the realm of many ferns from the often majestic tree-ferns in cool wet fern gullies to the harshness of arid rock outcrops where resurrection ferns such as *Cheilanthes lasiophylla* survive against all odds. Ferns are not always green, and this is displayed by the brilliant reddish new growth of *Doodia aspera* and other species.

There is immense variety in the Australian plants suitable for and indeed very desirable for cultivation, but sometimes people have trouble in cultivating them successfully due to a number of reasons. First and foremost we need to have at least an inkling of the area and natural habitat of plants we aim to grow in gardens, and hence their major requirements for successful cultivation. This can be gained from personal experience and travels, from reading, or through discussion with other plant growers including well-informed nursery owners and staff. Many plants have specific requirements, especially in regard to their tolerance of fertilisers and response to watering; and pruning is often a neglected aspect of gardening with Australian plants as many respond very well to judicious pruning.

Australia is not just an extended area of desert where plants are drought tolerant, and this needs to be understood if success is to be gained.

Rodger Elliot

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Landscape design with Australian native plants; hardly a subject to be covered in a short paper. In such time as I have, it seems best to me to address certain aspects of the subject and give them some deeper consideration. The aspects I have selected to address are those of the use of indigenous vegetation; the use of the Australian flora as garden plants (and by garden plants I mean plants to be subjected to gardening techniques such as coppicing, espaliering and so on); and, thirdly, the potential for using Australian plants in conjunction with those from other parts of the world to create mixed planting schemes.

As new arrivals in Australia my wife and I found the Australian landscape consistent. Groups of plants of similar nature seemed to line roadsides wherever we travelled and, since we travelled mostly in urban areas at first, we saw an Australian landscape dominated by melaleucas, acacias, hakeas and grevilleas in plantings that were clearly created. Rows of trees and shrubs descended the slopes of freeway access roads and formed sterile rows of plantings in freeway centre reservations. Useful perhaps for disguising the local police eager to raise funds but hardly likely to set the heart a-flutter with the excitement of their beauty as a landscape scheme.

As I spent more time here two things became apparent to me, firstly that the Australian landscape grew in beauty the more one got to know it. Consistent driving past and through the landscape, in areas such as the Strathbogies, made me understand more of this beauty and, through the work of artists like Fred Williams, a deeper appreciation grew.

Secondly, as I got to know more about the work of the Road Construction Authority, and similar authorities, I realised that their search for plants to use in broad landscape works on such roads as the Hume Highway was based on poor principles. Selecting Australian plants from various parts of the country to be used in our broad rural landscape was a mistake, using plants almost as alien to that particular location as selecting introduced plants. It seems vital to me that in a landscape where changes are often subtle, these changes should be stressed not reduced so that, on driving through Australia, changes in vegetation should be recognised and enhanced rather than masked.

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This is where a policy of selecting plants indigenous to an area becomes significant, especially in the broad landscape where the development of a character type is critical, to underline the character of a particular area.

Roadside plantings, farm plantings, river valley schemes, reclamation schemes all demand a response from us which recognises their location and enhances the sense of the region in which they are set. The idea that we should tread softly in our world, limiting evidence of our presence, is one that consistently appeals to me as a designer. The more we can envelop our developments and exploitations of the environment within the landscape, the better. The use of vegetation is essential to screen our presence, to integrate our activities with their landscape setting, but this will only be fully achieved by the considered use of indigenous plants.

Fundamental to our problems here are our tendencies to see landscape architects as office-bound employees who work at a drawing board, placing planting grids on a landscape plan so that the eventual scheme, once in the ground, even if it uses indigenous plants, has the stamp of man all over it, in its rigid geometry.

Fortunately, as demonstrated by Sue Campbell, this attitude is changing. More and more the idea is afield that as landscape designers we should intrude as little as possible, allowing natural systems to dictate our design. Techniques like direct sowing and the use of natural seed distribution from established, mature trees are becoming more widely accepted, as are other planting treatments. I recall promoting to students the concept of pre-planting sites with enormous numbers of small stock at the commencement of a development so the plants would grow during the process, only to be told that most of the plants would be lost to uncontrollable bulldozer drivers. If this is the case, so what: some informal thinning is often most desirable and may be best and most cheaply achieved in this way.

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To my mind the mistake that is frequently made is to believe that because a plant is indigenous it will grow anywhere in the area concerned. Here is where design creativity is best achieved in the field. Look at any area of land and you will note subtle variations in vegetation patterns, perhaps slightly denser plantings in a waterway, open plantings on a hilltop, the subtle integration of a second species as the soil pattern changes. Successful design of indigenous landscapes addresses such issues.

Critical to the whole process of indigenous plant use is the recognition of variation in the same species from different sources. Perhaps this is best described in a familiar species such as the river red gum. Its variation through its distribution is very marked. Those familiar with western Victoria could compare the enormous upright specimens around Casterton or Cavendish, with the oak-like spreading trees in paddocks close to Mawallock.

Such differences are vital for the retention of our characteristic landscapes previously mentioned, for it is these local differences which increase the visual pleasures of our countryside.

Furthermore the local trees will be best adapted to local soil and climatic conditions, able to tolerate their environment and perform effectively. Again landscape design in the field becomes critical, selecting local seed to provide nursery stock rather than importing seedlings from a probably unknown and almost certainly alien origin. Vital to this approach to design is a recognition of

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the complexity of natural systems. The results of our designs should not necessarily reflect only visual satisfaction but a recognition that landscape can be untidy, may accumulate a series of levels, including shrubs and grasses, that edge effects are critical and often the most dynamic spheres of landscape design where large numbers of plants and animals find their habitat.

The major danger in all of this remains in the sense of this appearing as a man-created landscape. Some of you may have shared my experience of looking from the Grampians (if that is what they are still called) above Halls Gap across the adjacent plains. Trees are still there although not in great numbers, but what is apparent is that in spite of the efforts of engineers most of them remain along the road fringe. The result is a straight line of intensive trees across a largely barren landscape, though better these roadside remnants than none at all.

While we may have managed to avoid the geometry of designed planting on the micro-scale, the macro-scale result remains a countryside divided into grids by roads and fencelines as tree planting follows man-made boundaries, many of them quite artificial and created purely for reasons of convenience.

The answer to this problem is not obvious. Farmers wish to maintain their paddocks for ease of movement and while willing to plant paddock edges they find central areas more difficult to sacrifice. Answers will be available, because these trees are most useful for shade for stock and at the same time they provide habitat and allow wildlife movement. Trees used to reinforce waterways will also soften the grid structure. No doubt we will break away from a landscape divided into a criss-cross by the lines of roads, at least we should hope so.

Just how important to the future of our landscape the use of indigenous vegetation is will be apparent to all who have observed the appalling development of our

urban fringe where subdivisions litter the countryside often without any sense of continuity or local sensitivity. There is often no identity to the landscape, yet these could be wonderful rural environments, free from the insidious creep of the golden cypress, a setting for houses among sheltering and shading woodlands. Sadly in Australia we have not considered the vast cost of current development not only in provision of services but also in energy, land loss for agriculture and recreation, the problems of weed reservoirs and fire and most seriously the long-term social problems of unemployment evident elsewhere in the world in these urban-fringe environments.

This idea of using indigenous vegetation to establish links between individual houses, to establish a honeycomb into which homes are set is an attractive one. Yet it doesn't imply that an entire landscape should be planted with indigenous plants, for most of us enjoy to garden using other plants, indeed that is the very reason why we are here today.

Tommy Garnett will not be surprised, though he will probably be pleased, to hear that I don't always agree with what he says. Yet I was delighted to read in one of his recent articles that he hasn't yet been tempted to convert his native plantings at the Garden of St Erth into a garden of indigenous plants, for Tommy is a gardener who delights in working with his plants and appreciating their qualities whether this be flowers, foliage, fruit, bark, scent or whatever. The selection of plants for a garden is never easy, so enormous is their range, and yet I frequently find clients telling me that 'they hate native plants' when quite often they wouldn't know whether many plants were native or not.

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In part the reason for the dislike of native plants seems to me to lie in the fashions of the past twenty years, where the objective of design with native plants appears to have been the creation of a sort of backyard bush, free from any perceived maintenance with plants selected on the advice of poorly trained nurserymen. This approach to design seems to me to have no parallel in landscape history anywhere. Even in the Japanese garden, where nature is viewed as a desirable element of the garden, it is manicured and rather structured nature close to buildings which only loosens further away. It is unfortunate that this philosophy has created so strong an aversion to our flora by so many gardeners for surely nowhere else on earth does gardening carry such an

exciting potential and extraordinary opportunities, namely the chance of exploring a little-known flora for our gardens.

Sadly there appear to be few who are addressing the task of experimenting in formal gardening with Australian plants. Clipping, shaping, training, pruning are all part of the pleasure of gardening and widely accepted as such. Even if we take the most popular of garden plants, the rose, we accept that pruning is necessary to achieve the best flowering of several of its forms. Strangely if one suggests the application of these procedures to native plants many gardeners look askance, indeed one student of mine observed that to prune a eucalypt was cruel! You can relax, however: she assured me that roses feel no pain! In preparing this paper I thought I would look at the observations of some recognised gardening authorities about the use of our flora in their gardens. Christopher Lloyd is, of course, without doubt the most imaginative of gardening writers and apparently an enthusiast for Australian plants:

'There was never an ugly *Eucalyptus*' writes Lloyd. 'At their most relaxed many of them grow to enormous dimensions but their characteristic foliage, lanceolate and hanging vertically, is always pleasing while the ghostly pallor of their peeling trunks is a marvel for colour and texture.'

As you will realise, Lloyd has tried all sorts of things with his eucalypts advocating the use of *Eucalyptus globulus* as a biennial for bedding displays and *Grevillea robusta* seedlings for annual displays. In his words, 'it's a question of experimenting'. I especially like Lloyd's ideas of espaliering eucalypts.

Particularly where you have a high wall, not unduly studded with windows, a wide variety of *Eucalyptus* can make a handsome and unusual feature. They will be allowed to grow so high and then be pruned back each Spring to a framework of branches trained against the wall. In this way a juvenile foliage will be permanently retained and its glaucous colouring makes a lively contrast to red brick. *Eucalyptus gunnii* will fill the bill as effectively as almost any.

Stephen Lacey in his book *The Startling Jungle* recognises the value of this plant:

The charm of *Eucalyptus gunnii* is in its round, succulent, blue-grey leaves which unfortunately only appear in juvenile plants. To keep your plants young, you need to cut them down in late Autumn; after which they will clothe themselves in blue and form eye-catching shrubs 6 feet high. If that sounds too easy to be true, you are right.

It seems to me that these English gardeners have investigated the potential of our flora far more extensively than we have ourselves, for though they have a rather limited range of Australian plants available to them they have attempted to apply a range of horticultural techniques. Strangely we seem to have spent our time trying to cultivate the widest range of plants without investigating their potential under different maintenance regimes.

I believe there are two aspects to this, the first a functional one, making plants fulfil roles we wish them to achieve. I suppose Lloyd encouraging eucalypts to grow against a wall would fit into this class, clothing a wall in

the way a *Garrya* or *Pyracantha* might otherwise do. To what extent have we experimented with our flora to identify what roles plants will fill? Clearly the use of plants for ground-cover is relatively easy, but what about pleaching or hedging. Has anybody attempted pleaching with any of our flora? Certainly one would need to select the tree carefully but a few trials would be good to see. As for hedges there are many options. In Canberra

Will any of our smaller growing plants form effective hedges, possibly to save us from the encroaching tide of box?

Acacia bowittii makes a superb hedge. Walling's use of Lilly pilly has resulted in some enormous hedges, in fact demanding such consistent clipping that they appear to have grown beyond their allotted space. Close to me in Hawthorn there is a tapestry hedge of several different native shrub species, excellent in its fulfilment of the hedge task, dense, even and handsome. But what of dwarfed hedges? Will any of our smaller growing plants form effective hedges, possibly to save us from the encroaching tide of box?

The second aspect relates to the attainment of the most spectacular results from native plants. As I have observed we have a series of clearly defined tasks for maintenance in the ornamental garden. We accept hard pruning for *Cotinus coggygria*; we know of the benefits of pruning to roses; yet seem content to rest on our laurels, using the familiar and predictable in our garden, rather than experimenting and assessing. Yet surely this is a challenging part of gardening especially when we find ourselves surrounded by a flora of such remarkable interest.

Of course, the value of all plants to gardeners depends upon the style of your garden and the mood you wish to create. As a gardener it seems to me important to use the most suitable plant for a location regardless of its origin and this, of course, includes our own flora. James Hitchmough recently spoke of a horticultural apartheid which saw Australian plants discarded purely on the basis of their origin. Yet there is an acceptance of our flora elsewhere for their beauty and the contribution they can make to design.

Christopher Lloyd speaks of a fairly obvious combination of plantings including, again, *Eucalyptus gunnii*:

Some *Eucalyptus* respond so well to cutting back that you can treat them as shrubs by stooling them annually. *E. gunnii* is one of the prettiest for this treatment. It will produce nothing but small, rounded, juvenile foliage brilliant glaucous colouring, and this can be contrasted in a mixed border or shrubbery with purple-leaved *Cotinus coggygria* and various berberis of the same persuasion.

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

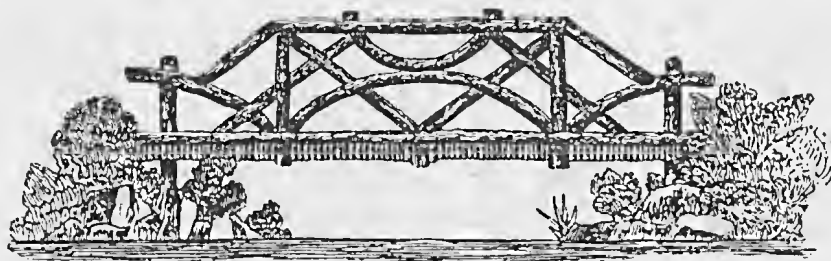
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Society was formed in 1980 with a view to bringing together all those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history — horticulture, landscape design, architecture, and related subjects.

It's primary concern is to promote interest in and research into historic gardens, as a major component of the National Estate. It is also concerned, through a study of garden history, with the promotion of proper standards of design and maintenance that will be relative to the needs of today, and with the conservation of valuable plants that are in danger of being lost to cultivation. It aims to look at garden making in its wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

The benefits of membership include:

1. The Society's official journal six times a year.
2. An opportunity to participate on regular tours.
3. An opportunity to attend seminars, lectures, social functions, hands-on garden restoration days, a variety of garden visits, weekend conferences and other activities organised at a State level.
4. An opportunity to attend the Annual Conference, held in a different centre every year, combining visits to important public and private gardens with a variety of interesting speakers.
5. Knowing you are contributing to the conservation of important gardens as a component of the National Estate.



Australian Garden History Society

C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141

Telephone (03) 650 5043



Membership Application Form

For new members

To: The Membership Secretary, Australian Garden History Society,
C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141

I/We wish to become a member of the Australian Garden History Society and enclose my/our subscription as under

Name(s)

Address

.....Postcode

Telephone: Home (...).....Business (...).....

Subscription Rates

please tick

Ordinary Member or Institutional Subscription	\$ 32.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 year Ordinary Membership	\$ 90.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Member (2 adults and 2 children)	\$ 37.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 year Family Member	\$ 105.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Member	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 year Corporate Member	\$ 140.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation*	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Cheque/Money Order enclosed

Please make cheques out to the Australian Garden History Society

☐ Please debit my credit card

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa Card

Expiry date.....

Cardholder's Signature.....

Please list any particular interests or skills you have which may be of help to the AGHS

.....
.....

*The Society is affiliated with the Australia Council of National Trusts and is thereby able to benefit from the Trusts' tax deductible status. Donations are welcome and should be made payable to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and forwarded to the AGHS

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

ACTIVITY BOOKING FORMS

If you would like to participate in any of the AGHS activities detailed in the Calendar of Events in this Journal please complete one of the forms below for *each* activity you wish to attend and forward it to the appropriate Branch Secretary (listed under Branch Contacts in this Journal) or as directed in the Calendar.

- Note:**
1. Refunds will only be allowed where one weeks' notice is given and tickets (if issued) returned for resale. A cancellation fee may be charged in some instances. Please advise of cancellations as early as possible in case there is a waiting list.
 2. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope where appropriate.
 3. For ease of accounting we would prefer that membership payments are *not* included with activity payments.

Name of Activity
Date of Activity
Applicants Name
Applicants Address
.....
..... Postcode
Telephone No. (H) (W)
No. of tickets required
... tickets for members @ \$ = \$
... tickets for non members @ \$ = \$
TOTAL
My cheque/money order for \$ is enclosed

Name of Activity
Date of Activity
Applicants Name
Applicants Address
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Telephone No. (H) (W)
No. of tickets required
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... tickets for non members @ \$ = \$
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My cheque/money order for \$ is enclosed

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No. of tickets required
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... tickets for non members @ \$ = \$
TOTAL
My cheque/money order for \$ is enclosed

Lloyd is still manipulating to get the effect he wants. Jekyll, on the other hand, just uses the plant on the merits of its suitability to her scheme. For example, the Tasmanian *Olearia gunniana*, now *O. phlogopappa*, features in her schemes as part of her white garden planting and also her 'beautiful fruit garden' where she combines 'the beautiful *O. gunniana* with yuccas, flag iris, hydrangeas and michaelmas daisies.

Writing of English gardeners talking about Australian plants is always a risk because of course so many of them see their cultivation as an achievement and grow them not necessarily because of their beauty but because of their collectability. How well I recall standing in the Kingsbridge Recreation Ground in Devon, where incidentally they serve the very best Devon cream teas, worshipping the ugliest *Callistemon* in the world, just because it was there!

The real value of plants in home gardens is to use them in designed ways based on their qualities, not rarity or desirability. Growing a good plant in the wrong environment is consistently frustrating and though it satisfies many gardeners it seems to indicate a remarkable perversion.

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or desirability

Having said these few words let us now consider the mixing of our flora with the exotic or introduced flora available to us.

I'm not necessarily going to list plants that will or won't, plants that do or don't. Rather I'm going to try to establish a broad philosophy to be followed.

In any good gardening environment, ecology needs to be the guiding hand behind plant selection. In Australia this is vitally important, though it is often overcome since to some extent most of us choose to apply some summer water to our gardens. Perhaps it is more important for those who don't irrigate, for here where no water is to be applied all selected plants must tolerate the existing ecology of the site or the scheme is doomed.

Plants the world over reveal consistent adaptations to their environments: thus, in general, water plants possess a foliage structure permitting water movement past them with least resistance so they are unlikely to be broken by rapid floods; coastal plants develop adaptations to allow tolerance of the salt conditions of their environment by producing glossy foliage or leaf hairs.

Given this, there is then much to be said for combining plants with similar ecologies for they complement each other but furthermore they have similar demands. I feel

that many of us recognise this; we frequently use the combination of tree ferns with rhododendrons and azaleas, plants from a similar ecological niche which not only look well together but demand similar garden treatment.

Looking to the way ahead, if this is allowed at a garden history conference, I think there are many exciting opportunities for gardeners in Australia to pursue. Trends in Britain, Holland and Germany suggest a landscape style based on ecologies. In America they claim the style as their own, calling it 'the new American Garden' as championed by James van Sweden and Wolfgang Oehme. In fact it reflects trends established in Europe in the 1950s. This is generally unimportant, but what it foreshadows developing here is a style of design in which the origin of plants is unimportant to the gardener; what counts is their ecological fit.

Perhaps future trends lie with a three zone approach to design. Close to the house a formal landscape, paved and irrigated to establish a mini-oasis. Here shade and coolness are achieved perhaps through the use of sufficient grass for sitting and basic family play. Planting intensity can be high with cosseted plants enjoying our efforts.

The second zone is not irrigated though it may benefit from roof run-off in the rainy periods (Glen Wilson has shown me work of this nature in Canberra, where down pipes lead not to drains but to the garden landscape). Here plant massings in the new American style are used. Combinations of native plants with introduced material, say a planting of *Limonium* with *Calocephalus brownii*, lavenders, *Plectranthus argentatus*, *Pennisetum alopecuroides* and perhaps a coppiced eucalypt, leading to larger plants; maybe some of the delightful but underused tamarisks, or a mass of the equally superb *Allocasuarina verticillata*.

This leads to the outer zone, where plants must grow without water. This vegetation may consist of indigenous plants suited to the setting, or other toughies from elsewhere. The use of indigenous material brings us to our honeycomb of planting, a setting of house with a uniting landscape.

Perhaps we should leave the last words about the use of Australian flora to another English writer whom I greatly admire, not perhaps as a designer but as a plantsman. In his book *Garden Plants for Connoisseurs* Roy Lancaster writes:

Of all the trees which grew in the Hillier Arboretum in Hampshire when I was Curator there, the Snow Gum, *Encalyptus niphophila* was easily the most popular with visitors. There were several specimens planted in different areas of the Arboretum, but one in particular was a special favourite because of its quaint leaning habit. Over many years the stem of this tree was stroked and hugged by innumerable youngsters who found the smooth marbled trunk irresistible. There were occasions, too, when adults found themselves likewise attracted and I well remember the day I introduced a group of the partially sighted to the tree. The smile on their faces as their fingers made contact with the bark would have made an Australian feel proud.

John Patrick

THE ALBURY-WODONGA URBAN LANDSCAPE

The Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation commenced its landscape program in 1977. Since then it has planted some 1.7 million trees and shrubs covering 750 hectares under its forward tree planting and urban forestry program. This program was set up to fulfill a number of criteria, including:

- to plant eroded and degraded areas;
- to provide an established urban forest in areas prior to subdivision;
- to construct ecologically sound corridors of indigenous planting to link the surrounding hills, through the urban area to the Murray and Kiewa River flood plains;
- to provide linked bicycle, horse riding and walking trails through the developed areas.

The planting was achieved at a relatively low cost due to two main factors: one of the first decisions the Corporation made was to establish its own nursery where all plant material required by the Corporation could be propagated and grown; and all landscape works were put up for public tender, the design criteria being kept as simple as possible.

The majority of plantings have been in the urban area, it is here that the greatest visual impact will be achieved. The plantings which are almost all native species (98% of these indigenous) are used to provide connections both physical and biological (ecological corridors) with the surrounding countryside. Around the urban areas extensive planting of non-urban land has been undertaken with the aim of preserving and improving the visual links between the surrounding rural land and the urban development.

Following the decision to establish a nursery it was

decided that no landscape development should take place until a comprehensive landscape study was undertaken. This study comprised concept plans and a resources and ecological study. The finding of these studies were put together to form a composite Landscape Plan. From this plan emerged the Forward Tree Planting and Regeneration Master Plan. A number of reviews of this plan have since been undertaken.

A number of different approaches to the landscape were considered, from the use of all exotic species through a mix of exotic and native to all native. Eventually it was decided to use indigenous species for all rural planting, a mixture of indigenous and introduced native species in the general urban area and introduce exotic species (mainly trees) in the town centres. A special effort was to be made along the entry roads into the city area, both along the roads to screen industrial sites and on the surrounding hills.

More than 78 species of trees and shrubs have been planted over the years consisting in the main of 41 *Eucalyptus* species, 18 *Acacia* species, with a number of *Callistemon*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Callitris* and *Casuarina* species. Generally the indigenous species have been found to be the most vigorous growers. This is particularly noticeable where trees have been planted on 'site specific' areas; introduced species have suffered from wind throw and in some cases insect attack.

After some 15 years of landscape work in the area we are able to look back and evaluate the project in a meaningful way. Overall it can be said that the task undertaken has been a success.

Susan Campbell

Planting in the Albury-Wodonga area, now showing a decade's growth



NATIONAL ESTATE GARDENS

Their Past and Future

Historic gardens can have important heritage values. They illustrate human achievements, needs and desires. They are also expressions of contemporary art and styles, built upon trends in horticulture, floriculture, technical achievements, and adaptations to environmental conditions. They contribute colour and texture to our cities and towns and often are the only green spaces and wildlife habitats of developed urban environments.

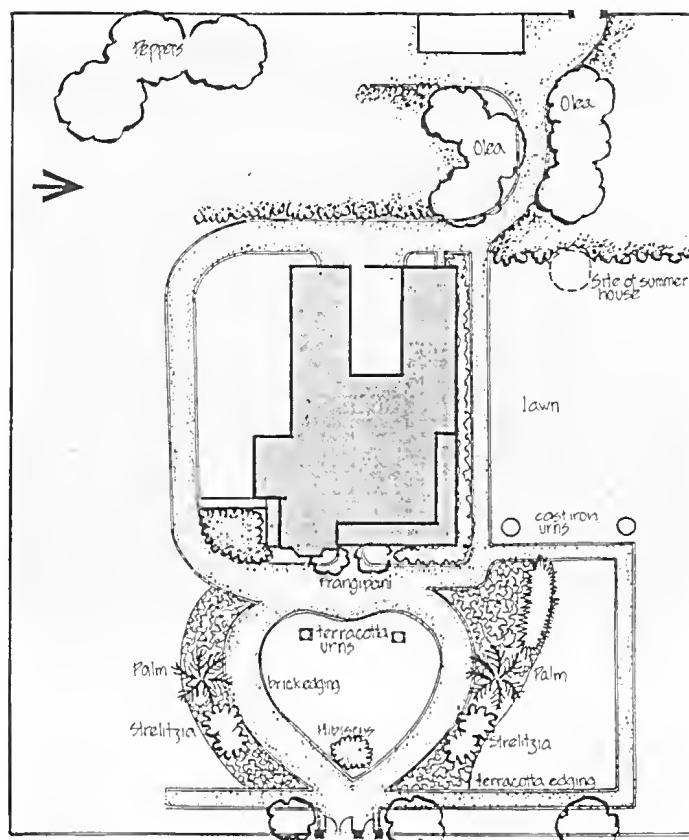
The Australian Heritage Commission is a Commonwealth statutory authority set up under the Australian Heritage Act of 1975. The major function of the Commission is to compile and maintain the Register of the National Estate, an inventory of natural and cultural places which have 'aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community'.

The Register was commenced in 1979. During the early years the Commission relied upon the National Trust, state and local governments and private individuals to nominate places to the Register, providing little direction. Now, a more structured approach to building a comprehensive Register is required and assessment methods need to be consistent. In order to set standards for assessment of places nominated to the Register, expert staff of the Commission have developed a set of criteria.

The Commission's criteria are designed for assessing all natural and cultural places, from rainforests to churches. They have been refined and are currently being written into legislation. Now, all places entered in the Register must meet at least one criterion. In addition the assessor must discriminate levels of value, to establish thresholds for the Register. These thresholds are established by comparing like places. Therefore there is a need for the preparation of type classifications of groups of places.

- 1 Utilitarian & Acclimatisation Gardens
- 2 Cottage Gardens
- 3 Terrace House Gardens
- 4 Suburban Gardens
- 5 Large-City/Town-Residence Gardens
- 6 Homestead Gardens.
- 7 Private Parklands
- 8 Hill Stations
- 9 Botanic Gardens
- 10 Public Parks, Gardens, Domains & Urban Reserve Areas
- 11 Zoological Gardens
- 12 Institution Grounds/Campuses and Gardens of Civic and Administrative Buildings
- 13 Scientific Gardens, Arboreta and Nurseries
- 14 Cemeteries and Memorial Places
- 15 Trees: Avenues, Tree Groups, Boundary Markers, Urban Trees, Plantations and Survey Markers
- 16 Public Squares, Urban Spaces & Urban Precincts
- 17 Commercial Gardens
- 18 Nature Parks & Forest Reserves
- 19 Railway Stations, Airports and Industrial Places
- 20 Landscape Estates
- 21 View Points

'Type classifications' used by the Australian Heritage Commission for National Estate gardens



Plan of the surviving nineteenth century garden at Cintra, Maitland, NSW, drawn by James Broadbent and typical of the documentation held by the Australian Heritage Commission on many of the gardens on the Register of the National Estate

A *Type Classification* is the grouping of places with like characteristics which are known as a 'type' and for which a description called a type profile can be developed. The Commission required a type classification for its category of designed and modified landscapes known as 'parks, gardens and special trees' as a guide for evaluations and assessments by Commission staff. The type classification built upon the work of state authorities especially the National Trust and private individuals working in this area during the last decade as well as the content and character of nominations submitted to the Register of the National Estate since its beginning.

Places which fall within the category of 'parks, gardens and special trees' are defined according to a 'type', based on size, spaces and elements such as plants and hard landscaping features, the building with which the garden is associated, and special uses of the garden. The type definitions are further qualified by a description of 'period' which simply relates to the major decade of development. 'Style', also as a qualifying description, is the way in which elements of a place are arranged to represent what is considered beautiful, or a particular ideal. They are constantly evolving ideas and therefore are rarely fully expressed in a single garden. In Australia, many gardens have overlays and mixtures of different styles, have more than one period of major growth, and are at times, of more than one type. Twenty-one types have been identified. These reflect the wide variety of landscape places which the public values and nominates to the Register.



The Hermitage, Narbethong, Victoria, built at the turn of the century by the celebrated photographer J.W. Lindt; an unusual hill station garden included on the Register of the National Estate

Resulting from this work and from research by others, some issues have become apparent and these are as follows.

Clear definitions

There is a need for agreement on the definitions of types and styles. The Commission needs your comments.

Gaps in the Register

The Register reflects the exceptional rather than the typical garden. It contains 124 registered places which are parks, gardens and special trees, and these include only one suburban bungalow garden, one suburban Federation garden, two cottage gardens and regrettably, no terrace house gardens. As well there are very few registered landscaped places of arid and Northern Australia.

Missing Gardens

Some of our exceptional gardens have not made the journey to the Register. Milton Park is not on the Register, neither are fourteen of the gardens described in *Great Gardens of Australia* by Howard Tanner, nor many other exceptional and well known gardens recorded in publications.

New Standards

There is a need for more thorough nominations and therefore the Commission has produced a guide which can be used for field survey work and the preparation of nominations to the Register of the National Estate.

Garden Schemes

The Victorian garden scheme and the Bowral festival garden visits are admirable models, giving the public inspiration, pleasure and an appreciation of heritage gardens. Directly involving people with their heritage is one way to foster understanding and appreciation.

Conservation problems

We are all aware of the the dynamic nature and vulnerable fabric of gardens, and especially the need to replace aged trees. Although many of these problems are being addressed further guidance for historic garden owners is still required for practical management.

Gentrification

How can we handle gentrification of heritage gardens? Many Federation style houses are now adorned by modern cottage revival style gardens. Should this be a concern? Other historic suburban gardens are also suffering under cottage-garden revivals, neo-Victorian ornaments and bush-garden shrubbing-up. We need to guard against giving false or misleading messages about the past in our heritage areas.

Education and Publicity

The Australian Heritage Commission develops education programs and publicity on heritage values. It produces videos, brochures, school programs, posters and has a bibliographic service.

Recording and assessing gardens is not an easy task; it also takes time and is therefore expensive. There is scope for much work upgrading the Register but the greatest need now appears to be in:

- recording and registering landscaped places of Northern and arid Australia;
- recording, registering and encouraging appreciation of some of the typical suburban garden before they are gentrified;
- registering those well known exceptional gardens — the great gardens of Australia before they become golf courses for tourists.

The Commission is now seeking your views and opinions, to help prepare documents for recording and assessing our National Estate gardens, and provide ideas for promoting heritage. Draft copies of the reports; *A Guide for Preparing Garden Nominations for Entry to the Register of the National Estate* and *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees, a Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate* are available from the Australian Heritage Commission, GPO Box 1567, Canberra ACT, phone (06) 271 2111.

Juliet Ramsay

REPORTS

New Zealand Garden Tour, Autumn 1991

Garden lovers will have the opportunity to visit the cream of New Zealand's historic gardens in all their autumn splendour this April. This tailor-made tour is particularly planned for those who enjoy historic gardens. It has been organised by John Morris, former director of the National Trust (NSW) and the horticultural guide will be Tom Garnett. Our guide runs the well-known Garden of St Erth at Blackwood, Victoria; a plantsmen's delight. He will also be known to many for his informative and often provocative 'Letters from the Country' in the *Age*. Wherever possible the visits will provide participants with the chance to meet with the owners or custodians of the gardens visited.

The tour commences at Christchurch in the South Island with visits to many gardens including such famous places as Ohinetahi, the garden of Sir Miles Warren and his sister and her husband Pauline & John Trengrove, and Taunton, Mr Barry Sligh's stone cottage nestled into a beautiful garden & nursery, both on the Banks Peninsular. Also in Christchurch is Mona Vale, a grand house with a splendid garden right on the Avon River. It includes a fernery, lily pond, iris garden and rose beds. It was named after the Tasmanian property by Anne Kermode, daughter of William Kermode of Mona Vale who married G.H. Moore and settled in the region.

Travelling south to Dunedin the tour will visit gardens at Geraldine and Oamaru on the way and Lanarch Castle and Glenfalloch.

The tour then flies to Wellington to explore the North Island. After a brief stop in Wellington the tour goes on to the Wairarapa to see some private gardens near Masterton, and then to Westoe, The Ridges, and Gordon Collier's Titoki Point in Rangitikei. Two nights have been planned in New Plymouth to enable people to enjoy great gardens of Taranaki such as Pukekura Park, Pukeiti, Tupare, and Hollard Gardens. We may even chance to see the snow covered volcanic Mount Taranaki (Mt Egmont). We shall skirt the lovely Lake Taupo and pause briefly at Rotorua to peer at bubbling mud and steam before an overnight stop on the way to Auckland. Three nights at Auckland will allow the group to see many of the gardens in the region and have a little free time to shop and relax.

The tour will also include guided visits to the major Botanic Gardens in New Zealand and the opportunity to meet horticulturalists and plantsmen including members of the Garden History Society in Auckland. We have been assured that in Autumn there will be some wonderful displays of colour.

The tour is for 16 days and the cost will include air fares from Melbourne or Sydney to Christchurch and return from Auckland, coach travel in New Zealand and the flight from Christchurch to Wellington. Also included is bed & continental breakfast, lunches and morning and afternoon teas and most admission charges. Dinners will be to own account. Brochures will be sent to all who have told John Morris of their interest. Others should

write or phone John at 13 Simmons Street, Balmain, New South Wales 2041 (02) 810 2564 for a brochure. It will be possible to travel to New Zealand early or leave late if you wish to visit friends or travel to places outside the itinerary but this will need to be confirmed early. The tour will include inspections of some large gardens and participants will need to be reasonably fit to include everything.

The dates of the tour are from Sunday, 14 April to Monday 29 April 1991 and the cost will be \$2961 from Melbourne, or \$2885 from Sydney (Single Supplement \$540). Bookings are to be made on the form in the brochure and travel insurance is strongly recommended.

An Oasis in the City

I wonder how many of today's garden lovers remember the triangle in Melbourne where Latrobe and Victoria Streets meet. It was a small triangle with its broad base toward the west and occupied by a small white house. The other sides were enclosed by a very low stone wall, over which one saw an abundance of flowers in what we now call a cottage garden. I do not remember the species, only the many colours and the atmosphere of quiet unexpected beauty.

I did not know its history, but I looked for it every time I passed as I did often at that time, and I took it for granted that it would always be there. I was not there again for at least twenty years, but when I was I looked eagerly for my garden. It had gone. I could not even tell exactly where it had been. It was swallowed up by tall buildings. I wonder if anyone knows its history.

Jean Galbraith

Ferdinand von Mueller project update

Thank you to readers who responded to my general call for help with finding Mueller's letters for 'The Correspondence of Ferdinand von Mueller' project. Oline Richards of Perth sent me a copy of a Mueller book inscription to Ann F Richards, a South Australian collector. Richard Clough sent me a copy of a Mueller book inscription to Thomas Cheeseman, a New Zealand botanist. This last inscription matches a reference in a letter from Mueller to Cheeseman which was sent to the project by the Auckland Institute and Museum. Lady Alice Hay provided me with information on a link between Mueller and the gardens of Savernake Station near Mulwala in NSW. Subsequent correspondence with the station owners was unable to conclusively confirm or deny the story, although old diary references to another German 'von Wedell' suggest that tradition may have confused him with Mueller. With regard to Mueller's residence, the research of local historian Oscar Slater has revealed that Mueller did not build the house, but that it was erected in the 1860s at a time when Mueller was still residing in the Botanic Gardens.

Sara Maroske

BOOK REVIEWS

The Natural Garden, Ellis Stones: His Life and Work by Anne Latreille (Viking O'Neil, 1990, 272pp, RRP \$45.00)

Anne Latreille is well known to most members of the Australian Garden History Society as a journalist of high repute with an avid interest in the environment, broad landscape, and garden design, construction and maintenance.

She became fascinated with the life and work of Ellis Stones, a man whom she had never met but who was a remarkable practitioner within the similar confines (as broad as they are) of her special areas of interest. The end result after many years of exhaustive effort is this publication.

On first handling the book and observing its design my immediate reaction was of pleasure, which is a good start. Then also to find a comprehensive index helped set the scene to explore further! Ellis Stones was not a publicity seeking person, and many people will not be aware of his very significant impact in the world of landscape design and construction. Anne Latreille enables us to follow all phases of his life, relationships with family, friends, clients, gardeners, landscape designers, architects and employees in a fascinating and delightful manner.

Whilst I was in the employment of Edna Walling and also Eric Hammond during the late 1950s and 1960s the name of Ellis Stones was often mentioned, especially when any rock work was being undertaken. He was renowned as a master craftsman. There are many exciting facets to Ellis Stones revealed in this book. The aspect of Ellis's simplicity is a very prominent feature. His attitude to the Australian landscape is highlighted time and again, as is the theme of towards an 'Australian Garden'.

While concentrating on discussing the life and attributes of this friendly man who offered so much to those willing to receive, Anne Latreille also takes on many truly fascinating sidetracks of discovery as to the attitudes of many other people who influenced or were influenced by Ellis Stones in the fields of landscape, architecture and art. Wonderful and extremely interesting! We learn about the influence of people such as Edna Walling who put him on the track to a vocation which he truly enjoyed. There was also the Californians Tommy Church and Garrett Eckbo, which undoubtedly strengthened his strong belief that gardens and parks are for people. Gardens of Japan and Asia also held a fascination for him. Although not of the classical scholarly mould Ellis was also well versed with the work of the likes of Repton and 'Capability' Brown.

The amount of painstaking research in compiling this eminently readable biography has taken many, many hours, days and weeks. The fine narrative detail provided for readers is to be applauded. A very important part is played by the black and white photographs, many of which were taken by the intrepid photographer, Ellis Stones himself. Their historical impact is impressive. They are complemented by colour plates which mainly depict examples of his work, some of which are also historical shots.

We should be deeply indebted to Ellis Stones for his sterling contribution to projects which have helped to make many locations a much better place in which to live. His philosophy and actions still exert a strong influence in the areas of landscape and conservation.

Anne Latreille deserves congratulations for her extensive research and insight which have been well-tempered with her literary talents to compile this excellent biography. It is highly recommended. She provides us with much to savour from the exploits and thoughts of this champion of simplicity who urged us to accept 'Nature as the greatest teacher'.

Rodger Elliot

Man of Roses by Tom Garnett (Kangaroo Press, 1990, 128pp, RRP \$35.00)

There has been a revival of interest in Alister Clark's roses and more information about the man who bred them has been long overdue. He has an important place in our horticultural history which *Man of Roses* highlights.

A large part of this book is taken up with family history. This alone is a fascinating story and the author has done an immense amount of detailed research in recording the steps that led to the establishment of the Clark home Glenara at Bulla, and how it was that Alister became the owner and not his elder brother. It is fortunate that Alister's father, Walter, kept the histories of plants he ordered and that these are preserved in the National Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. These plants are all listed in an appendix. There is also a beautiful illustration of von Guerard's picture of Glenara painted in 1867, some ten years after the garden was started.

The family story is a complex one. There were financial problems, and a young family of five children was left motherless at an early age and then eight years later they lost their father too. The children, nevertheless, seem to have grown up happily in the care of relations and friends. There came the time when they went back to Britain to visit relations. Travel seemed to be a major pre-occupation, particularly for Alister and his wife Edie, whose family lived near Christchurch in New Zealand. Edie's brother married Alister's sister Jessie, which led to almost yearly visits across the Tasman.

It was after Alister's marriage that we begin to see his particular interest in roses and daffodils developing. He wanted to get all the roses recommended by William Robinson in his *English flower garden*. These, which would be of interest to old rose enthusiasts, are listed in an appendix. The roses he bred are likewise listed and a remarkable tally it is. He achieved a world wide reputation for his roses and the National Rose Society in London awarded him the Dean Hole Memorial Medal, the highest honour that it could confer on one of its members.

The end of the nineteenth century saw a strong interest in growing daffodils, both here and in the United Kingdom. Walter Smith of Riddell's Creek, whose nursery

Alister visited, did much to popularise daffodils in Victoria. Alister, with several friends, bought a selection of bulbs bred by the Rev. G H Englehart, a leading breeder in England and these formed an important part of his breeding stock, though strangely Alister never bothered to register the daffodils he raised. The chapter on daffodils is very informative on daffodil breeders and many readers may be surprised at how many outstanding breeders there have been — and still are — in Victoria.

The author paints a picture of a man who led a very full life and endeared himself to many friends and to those he employed. He had many sporting interests, golf, shooting, hunting, racing, polo — and yet found time to pursue his breeding of roses and daffodils. Of these his roses are a legacy, which we can still enjoy in the Memorial Garden in St Kilda. There is also the collection of his roses in Gisborne, made by Susan Irvine, who has rescued many that seemed lost.

The book is well illustrated with black and white photographs and some good colour reproductions of some of Alister's roses. It should appeal to a wide range of gardening enthusiasts.

Barney Hutton

Australia's Master Gardener: Paul Sorenson and his gardens by Richard Ratcliffe (Kangaroo Press, 1990, 168pp, RRP \$39.95)

Paul Sorenson (1890–1983) Danish by birth, trained in horticulture and estate management in Europe before migrating to Australia at the age of 25. The design of the gardens of the Carrington Hotel at Katoomba, New South Wales, in 1916 launched Sorenson on his life's work as a garden designer in Australia which continued unbroken until his death at the age of 93.

Sorenson designed romantic 'paradise gardens', naturalistic in form but unlike any landscape in nature. He was an eclectic designer and delighted in growing trees from all parts of the world combining colourful deciduous cool climate trees with a wide range of conifers in rich woodland plantings which became the hallmark of his work. Sorenson rarely designed on paper preferring to work directly in the landscape. He designed for posterity, which is why trees were central to his gardens and it is the trees for which he is most remembered.

He worked almost entirely in New South Wales and while his name may well be familiar 'in and around Sydney' it is doubtful if his work is more widely known. Everglades at Leura is perhaps Sorenson's best known garden and surprisingly, in view of the large number of his gardens, is the only one listed on the Register of the National Estate. Richard Ratcliffe makes a plea for the conservation of Sorenson's most important gardens and suggests that it must 'be only a matter of time' before more gardens are listed. It surely should be a concern of the Australian Garden History Society that more of these gardens are protected and included on the Register. The author refers to the completeness of Sorenson's business

records which span his entire career (notwithstanding the lack of design drawings). These records are without doubt a most important archive and their conservation should also be a major concern.

Richard Ratcliffe's book is a tribute to Sorenson. The text is based on many years of research, a personal knowledge of the gardens and discussions with people associated with Sorenson namely clients, employees, his family and Sorenson himself and provides considerable detail about individual gardens and Sorenson's design ideas and philosophies. The book is written for the general reader with an interest in garden history and in gardens as an aesthetic experience. An inventory of 76 gardens known to have been designed by Sorenson is included as well as maps which show their location. While most of the gardens are privately owned some are open on occasions for visits and this information will be useful for those interested in experiencing Sorenson's work first hand. There is also a list of trees in his gardens. The book is disappointing from a scholarly viewpoint; there is a tendency to generalisation without supporting argument and while a bibliography is included, specific citing of references is omitted. It is rare for photographs of gardens to capture the essence of 'being there' and few of the photographs in the book do justice to the 'magic' of the gardens which are described.

The point is made in the foreword that 'there are few books on Australian garden designers'. Richard Ratcliffe has done Australian garden history a service in documenting the career and work of Paul Sorenson and, in the absence of Sorenson's own drawings, in recording the layout of so many of the gardens. The book is likely to be provocative; it could hardly be otherwise when the author has chosen to place Sorenson's work and career alongside (if not above) that of Edna Walling. Richard Ratcliffe argues that Sorenson is Australia's master gardener 'because his expertise was not limited to any one facet of gardening'. He was designer, builder, nurseryman, tree surgeon and practical gardener and 'he alone can claim this rare combination of skills'.

There can be no doubt that Sorenson is a significant figure in the history of gardening and landscape design in Australia and the author has clearly demonstrated the breadth of Sorenson's achievements. The very lack of studies of Australian garden designers makes it difficult to determine whether Sorenson does indeed stand alone and the author's assessment may not go unchallenged particularly from garden historians working in other regions. We are richer for Richard Ratcliffe's book and hopefully more works of a similar nature will appear in future years.

Oline Richards

STATE NEWS

TASMANIAN BRANCH

Spring this year in Tasmania was superb. We generally get howling blustery gales about the time all the fragile blossoms we love so well are due to appear. Not so this year, and we all revelled in the stillness and the warmth of those perfect days.

During this spring members of the Tasmanian Branch had the pleasure of visiting three very different gardens. Mrs Betty Ranicar who lives at Red Hill Farm near Deloraine is known and loved by all Tasmanians and many interstate friends as well. She is one of those gardeners who shares her skills and knowledge with everyone, welcomes visitors and gives of her plants and bulbs generously. Her garden, right on a main road is backed by the blue hills of the Western Tiers and set in wonderful farming country. She has developed her garden from a bare paddock, the greatest credit to her efforts, enthusiasm and knowledge. It stands out from the countryside in winter as one sees a group of bare trunks of oak, elm and ash, and in the summer a dense mass of greenery which gives shade, shelter and privacy. Hellebores, bluebells and alyssum grow right to the edge of the bitumen, under the shade of a golden ash, a wonderful bonus for passing motorists. Under the shade of the great oak and sheltered by other trees are the precious plants of the garden, the wonderful collection of hostas, the camellias, and a host of smaller ground covers. The overall picture is of cool quiet restraint.

Three weeks later we visited Beaufront, the home of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Von Bibra. The house is approached through a well kept avenue of pines. Since Mr Von Bibra removed some of the older pines the magnificent view from the front lawn is very evident. Apart from the historical interest of the house and buildings, the park like gardens are spacious and well kept. The walled vegetable garden is a credit to the owner; not a weed to be seen, a great variety of vegetables, very wide paths, and all the beds edged.

Some miles distant is Wetmore, like Beaufront subject to very cold conditions, very hot summers and a low rainfall, all of which makes gardening hard work. Wetmore, owned by Mr and Mrs Harry Gillett and managed by Margaret and Malcolm Melrose, is protected by large old pines and firs some of which have succumbed to age and drought and had to be removed. From the terrace the view is over the main garden to the paddocks beyond. The long border was at its best, a lesson in planning and planting. With a gravel path on either side it is easy to see the plants and excellent from a work point of view. The many old trees which frame the Wetmore house give it a sense of protection and shelter and serve as a backdrop to many of the more delicate trees that are planted each side of the house. Standing on the terrace one has the impression that no breeze ever touches this garden.

Like gardeners the world over, there is always some pest to battle, but I am glad to say they keep on regardless. We thank them all for sharing their efforts with us and wish them well for the future.

Fairie Nielson

SYDNEY AND NORTHERN NSW BRANCH

Visit to Rouse Hill, 3 November 1990

On a warm spring day in November the Society was accorded the privilege of the first public viewing of Rouse Hill House for over 20 years. Over 100 people visited the property languishing with elaborate picnics under the araucarias and figs in this, the oldest surviving garden in Australia. That claim to fame is often given to this garden since its layout is thought to date from the construction of the house in 1813-16. Most other gardens of this period have seen the whims of fashion sweep these away, but at Rouse Hill, as with everything else at this extraordinary property, there has been little change. The garden still retains its simple geometric form and the excellent documentation, produced by the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales who own Rouse Hill, enabled visitors to see how little the garden had changed.

In addition to the garden, visitors were able to see the gentle hand of the restorer at work on the many outbuildings surrounding the main house. We were also treated to a viewing of the interior of this remarkable house. Having been lived in by seven generations of the Rouse family, it is filled to overflowing with the possessions of each of those generations.

Peter Watts

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS/SOUTHERN NSW BRANCH

Luncheon at Longfield, 21 November 1990

It was a very pleasant experience to drive through the green rolling countryside of Robertson on a fine warm day. Our destination was Longfield, home of Mr and Mrs R Jeffcoat. Suddenly the house and garden comes into view at the end of a fine gravel drive bordered by pin oaks. The house is tucked into the hillside; together with lawn and garden it forms part of a splendid amphitheatre of green hills studded with dark green copses of pittosporum, blackwood, leatherwood and sassafras, to name only a few rainforest trees. Centre stage is a broad expanse of water bordered with rushes, waterlilies, willows; the focus of bird and animal life.

Robin and Ron have improved upon nature to create a garden both native and exotic which gradually merges into the landscape. The steep slope between house and dam is planted with a multitude of perennials, bulbs and small shrubs. The foxgloves and old-fashioned roses stood out. The house is softened by vines, climbing roses and perennial plantings. Worthy of mention was the *Romneya coulteri*, an herbaceous perennial with beautiful large white crepy poppy-like flowers.

A delicious lunch provided by Robin, assisted by the committee, was served both in the garden and at large circular tables under cover.

About 50 members and friends came to enjoy a wonderful day. The committee extend their sincere thanks to Robin and Ron Jeffcoat for making this occasion such a memorable event.

Barbara Reed

BRANCHES

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Christmas party, 29 November 1990

Our Christmas get-together was a week earlier than usual and, for a change, a lovely fine evening! About 20 members with their families met on the Western Lawn of the Botanic Gardens to picnic and chat. We then moved into the Herbarium and, joined by other members, enjoyed a talk by Mike Calnan. Mike, who is visiting Australia from England, works with John Sales (1989 AGHS National Conference) conserving and restoring gardens for the UK National Trust. His most interesting explanation of the way in which the Trust works was followed by a description of the historical development of Stowe, probably Britain's most important garden. The Trust, which has recently acquired Stowe, has long term plans to return this garden to its previous splendour. Thanks to John Hawker for arranging this wonderful end of year treat.

Diana Renou

Help from Victorian Branch

Thank you to the following members of the AGHS (Vic Branch) who helped mail out the previous issue of the journal: Anita Barley, Richard Barley, Margaret Brookes, Sue Darvall, John Hawker, John Joyce, Gini Lee, Rosemary Manion, Helen Page, Joan Rudder, Robyn Russell, Georgina Whitehead, and to Liz McDonald for editorial assistance with this issue of the journal.

New address

Please note that the Victorian Branch address has changed from the Hawksburn Post Office to C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141.

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Mrs Hargreaves' garden, 2 December 1990

Our branch held its final function for the year when 30 members and friends viewed the lovely hillside garden of Mrs Mary Hargreaves in Kalamunda. The garden has its own running stream and features an interesting selection of exotic trees, numerous magnificent roses, camellias and many unusual shrubs. A very pleasant afternoon completed a most successful year.

Highlights of the 1990 program were our November garden tour of Bridgetown which also attracted 30 participants and was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved, and the August seminar on 'Recording and Restoring an Old Garden', a great success which attracted interest from members and many non-members too.

The committee will meet early in 1991 to devise the year's program. We anticipate including another workshop/seminar and also a country garden tour; and plan to maintain the balance between lecturer/guest speakers and tours/garden viewings.

Anne Willox

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1991

Victorian Branch

- Thursday 21 February
Wine and cheese followed by talk and walk in Botanic Gardens with Nigel Lewis and Richard Aitken describing their work in connection with the Conservation Study.
Time: 5.30 pm wine and cheese, 6.00 pm talk and walk
Location: Royal Botanic Gardens, Western Lawn (behind Herbarium, Gate F)
Cost: \$8 members, \$10 non-members
Information: Sue Darvall 822 7507
RSVP 14 February

March 1991

Victorian Branch

- Saturday 16 March
BYO picnic at Petty's Orchard, Templestowe followed by talk on early fruit cultivars and walk.
Time: 12.30 pm
Location: Homestead Road, Templestowe, Melway Map 22 A12
Cost: \$5 members, \$7 non-members
Contact: John Hawker 628 5477 (Bus)

April 1991

Victorian Branch

- Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April
Visit private and public gardens in Castlemaine with Kevin Walsh.

Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch

- 27–28 April
Autumn weekend garden tour to Tumut. Details of all activities will be sent to branch members. For further information contact the Secretary, Helen Andersson. (048) 86 4337.

May 1991

Victorian Branch

- Saturday 4 May
Heidelberg landscape tour.
- Wednesday 29 May
Paul Fox will talk about William Guilfoyle and the subtropical garden. A joint function with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

June 1991

Victorian Branch

- Sunday 16 June
The Canterbury landscape including visits to private gardens.

Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch

- Sunday 2 June
'Hands-on' day at Pejar Park, Woodhouselee
Demonstrations of some of the many aspects of garden construction and maintenance, including tree pruning and rejuvenation.

September 1991

Victorian Branch

- Weekend workshop at Glenormiston in the Western District on recording of gardens.

November 1991

Victorian Branch

- 2–5 November
Spring long weekend in the Grampians with Rodger Elliot.

Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch

- Sunday 10 November
Spring in Bowral. Visit to private gardens in Burradoo. These gardens are being opened exclusively for the Australian Garden History Society.

(Would Victorian members please watch Tuesday's Age for any additions or amendments to the Calendar of Events)

The Australian Garden History Society was formed in 1980 to bring together those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history—horticulture, landscape design, architecture and related subjects. Its prime concern is to promote interest and research into historic gardens as a major component of the National Estate. It aims to look at garden making in a wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

The editorial content of articles, or the products and services advertised in this journal, do not necessarily imply their endorsement by the Australian Garden History Society.

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